

Amendments to the Claims/ Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 21-23, cancel claims 17 and 18, and add claims 24-25 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for isolating normal hepatocytes, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) recovering liver tissue from a patient during a hepatectomy; and
 - (b) isolating normal hepatocytes from unwanted cells present in the recovered tissue by magnetic separation.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hepatectomy is performed to resect a liver, or a portion thereof, containing a benign or malignant tumour.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of removing macroscopic evidence of the tumour-affected tissue from the recovered liver tissue prior to the step of isolating the hepatocytes by magnetic separation.
4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~[[to 3]]~~ wherein the unwanted cells are tumour cells.
5. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~[[to 4]]~~ wherein the magnetic separation of cells is achieved using superparamagnetic colloids coated with an antibody.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody which specifically recognises an epitope on the surface of the normal hepatocytes.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody which specifically recognises the unwanted cells.

8. (Original) A method of preparing hepatocytes for transplantation, the method comprising the steps of:

- (c) recovering liver tissue from a patient during a hepatectomy; and
- (d) isolating normal hepatocytes from unwanted cells present in the recovered tissue by magnetic separation.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the hepatectomy is performed to resect a liver, or a portion thereof, containing a benign or malignant tumour.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of removing macroscopic evidence of the tumour-affected tissue from the recovered liver tissue prior to the step of isolating the hepatocytes by magnetic separation.

11. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 8 [[to 10]] wherein the unwanted cells are tumour cells.

12. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 8 [[to 11]] wherein the magnetic separation of cells is achieved using superparamagnetic colloids coated with an antibody.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody which specifically recognises an epitope on the surface of the normal hepatocytes.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody which specifically recognises the unwanted cells.

15. (Currently amended) Normal hepatocytes isolated according to the method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 7]].

16. (Currently amended) Normal hepatocytes prepared according to the method of ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 8 [[to 14]].

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for treating a liver disorder in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient normal hepatocytes isolated according to the method of ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7 or prepared according to the method of any one of claims 8 to 14~~ in an amount and for a time sufficient to treat the liver disorder.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the liver disorder is selected from the group consisting of: Crigler-Najar Syndrome; Gilbert's Syndrome; Dubin Johnson Syndrome; familial hypercholesterolemia; ornithine transcarbamoylase deficiency; hereditary emphysema; haemophilia; viral hepatitis; hepatocellular carcinoma; acute liver failure; and chronic liver failure.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The use of~~ An artificial liver support system comprising normal hepatocytes isolated according to the method of ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 7 in an artificial liver support system.~~

22. (Currently amended) ~~The use of~~ A method for isolating normal hepatocytes from resected liver tissue recovered during a hepatectomy, said method comprising isolating ~~for the isolation of normal hepatocytes wherein the~~ normal hepatocytes ~~are isolated~~ from unwanted cells in the resected tissue by magnetic separation.

23. (Currently amended) ~~The use of resected liver tissue recovered during a hepatectomy for the preparation of hepatocytes for transplantation wherein~~ A method of preparing normal hepatocytes for transplantation, said method comprising isolating normal hepatocytes, by magnetic separation, ~~are isolated~~ from unwanted cells in the resected liver tissue recovered during a hepatectomy ~~by magnetic separation.~~

24. (New) A method for treating a liver disorder in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient normal hepatocytes prepared according to the method of claim 8 in an amount and for a time sufficient to treat the liver disorder.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the liver disorder is selected from the group consisting of: Crigler-Najar Syndrome; Gilbert's Syndrome; Dubin Johnson Syndrome; familial hypercholesterolemia; ornithine transcarbamoylase deficiency; hereditary emphysema; haemophilia; viral hepatitis; hepatocellular carcinoma; acute liver failure; and chronic liver failure.